

So I think we're in as good a shape as we're ever going to get, and we might as well just go to work.

Thank you very much.

NOTE: The President spoke at 10:38 a.m. on the South Lawn at the White House prior to depar-

ture for Camp David, MD. In his remarks, he referred to Prime Minister Ehud Barak of Israel and Chairman Yasser Arafat of the Palestinian Authority. A portion of these remarks could not be verified because the tape was incomplete.

Exchange With Reporters Prior to Discussions With Chairman Yasser Arafat of the Palestinian Authority and Prime Minister Ehud Barak of Israel at Camp David, Maryland

July 11, 2000

Middle East Peace Summit

Q. Mr. President, how is it going? Mr. President?

Q. How long is it going to take, Mr. President?

The President. We pledged to each other we would answer no questions and offer no comment, and I'd like to set a good example. [Laughter]

Q. Can you resist us, sir?

The President. It's difficult to resist, but I will make it—today, at least.

Q. Is that the only agreement you have reached so far? [Laughter]

The President. That would be answering a question. [Laughter]

Thank you.

NOTE: The exchange began at 2:25 p.m. A tape was not available for verification of the content of this exchange.

Statement on Environmental Protection Agency Action To Strengthen Water Quality Protections

July 11, 2000

Today's action by the Environmental Protection Agency to strengthen water quality protections nationwide is a critical, commonsense step to ensure clean, safe water for all Americans. While we have made tremendous progress over the past quarter-century, too many of our rivers,

lakes, and bays are still too polluted for fishing or swimming. With the new strategy we launch today, we will work in close partnership with States and communities to tackle our remaining pollution threats and complete the job of cleaning up America's precious waterways.

Letter to Congressional Leaders Transmitting a Report on Haiti

July 11, 2000

Dear Mr. Chairman:

Pursuant to section 559(b) of the Foreign Operations, Export Financing, and Related Programs Appropriations Act, 2000 (Public Law

106-113), I hereby transmit to you a report concerning the status of Haiti's progress.

The report contains eight subsections, that provide information required by section 559(b)